

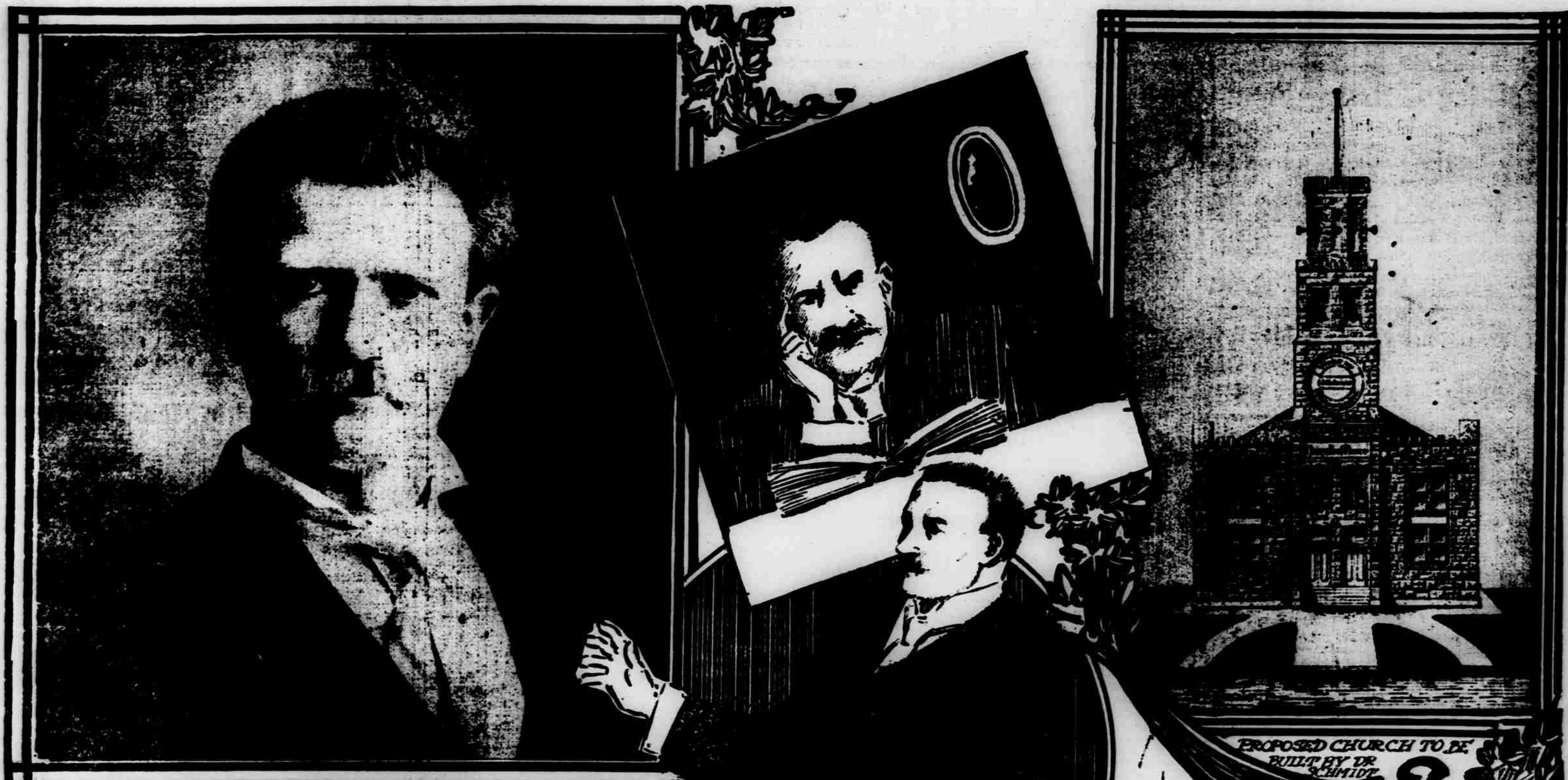
NINETY-EIGHTH YEAR.

SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 17, 1905.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

SOUTH SIDE PHYSICIAN, AFTER STRANGE JOURNEY, PURSUED BY A VOICE, RETURNS TO ST. LOUIS TO BUILD A CHURCH OUT OF HIS MEANS

Seeing the Error of His Way, He Crosses the Ocean to Escape the Demon Which He Is Convinced Possessed Him, and in His Wanderings Many Things Are Revealed to Him—Worship in the Edifice Which He Will Build Adjoining His Residence to Be Free to All—No Sermons to Be Preached and Sacred Music to Be Rendered—Unique Views on God, Sin and the Devil.



AUGUST SCHMIDT, M.D.

Down in South St. Louis there is a German physician, who after wanderings quite as adventurous and wonderful as those of Ulysses or Perseus, has resolved to devote himself to the service of the Lord.

He has evolved a creed unique among creeds and is planning a church which when completed will be beyond question different from any place of worship in St. Louis.

Doctor August Schmidt without aid from anyone else proposes to erect a church edifice in the rear of his residence on his property at No. 2820 Utah street, where all, regardless of congregational affiliations, may come at any time to worship.

Worshippers will not be expected to contribute to the support of the church, unless they so desire, and at the services there will be no collection plate passed, no sermon, no ritual, nor no ceremonies.

Neither will there be any choir singing. All the music will be automatically rendered by a set of chimes and a pipe organ in the belfry.

Doctor Schmidt's religious platform is simple and brief, even if unconventional. He scorns the idea of a literal hell; holds that the devil exercises a hypnotic influence over sinners, which absolves them from responsibility for their wrongdoing, the punishment for which must fall upon the evil one; maintains that mortals are punished for their sins on earth and that the soul of one who has spent all of his days in wickedness becomes part of the prince of darkness.

It was a voice which came to Doctor Schmidt several years ago when he was worldly minded, and which pursued him even across the ocean as he fled from its warnings, bidding him cast himself from dizzy heights and to fear not, that led to his conversion. At the end of a fantastic journey through strange places, during which he believed himself to be possessed of a devil, he returned clothed in his right mind and determined to preach the truth which had come upon him to the whole world.

He has written a book explaining his theories of God and religion, copies of which he has sent broadcast to the Princes, Potentates, President and rulers of the world.

He believes that while he sought to escape the pursuing voice many things were revealed to him and that the key to puzzling passages of Scripture, which for centuries had baffled theologians, has been vouchsafed to him.

The Bible is the fundamental basis of his faith, which is not fighting any other faith, but is engaged in the same cause as all of them.

He holds that the Bible is the result of the joint inspiration of God and the devil, the portions where there are apparent contradictions being inspired by the Prince of Darkness.

Doctor August Schmidt of No. 2820 Utah street is planning the construction of a church building in the rear of his property which will be unlike any other religious edifice in the city, both in the nature of its construction and the manner of the worship to be carried on within it. It is the design of the builder and founder to make it truly a temple of the Lord, and it will be devoted solely to holiness, with none of the vanities of the world surrounding or connected with it.

No one will be asked to contribute toward the expense and there will be no charge of any kind for the religious instruction of those who attend. The sole idea of the teachings will be the love of the Lord and hatred of the devil. In fact, it will be more of a warfare on the evil one than a preaching of the Lord's message by words.

Doctor Schmidt thus explains his church and what led to its establishment: "I have had the idea in my mind for several years, and it will not be long now until I get it in operation. I have a large lot on my property, and I will build the church there. It is my intention to bear all the expense myself and when it is completed I will dedicate it to the Lord's service for all time.

"Of course, I do not expect to start in on a large scale, and the edifice that I will erect at first will be only a small affair, but I expect after a time to be able to build a church as large and as fine as any in the city. I must first make the people understand what I purpose doing, and then I am sure that they will enter into the spirit of the thing.

"It is not my intention to make war on the other churches. I am not opposed to

I could not make him off. He was with me all the time and tempted me to evil.

JUMPS FROM TRAIN.

deeds. Finally, to put an end to this intolerable condition of affairs I resolved to travel abroad.

I had no money settled down on the cushions of a seat when I observed a large man between 40 and 50 years of age watching me. I kept an eye on him until we reached Pittsburgh. There I was to take another train. I suddenly noticed the same man I had seen at St. Louis. He was speaking to the man on the train, and I heard him say: 'It is a stinger, if he comes over to do him up.' I had a revolver in my pocket, and it was all I could do to resist shooting him, for I felt sure they meant me harm. Now I know it was but a trap of the devil to induce me to commit murder.

"At length I was shown the train bound for Washington. But the two men who sought to do me harm were also aboard. I knew I was surrounded by enemies and that my life was in imminent peril. So, when none of them seemed to be watching, I opened a window and leaped out, alighting in the soft earth and escaping injury. The train went on and I was not missed.

"That night I slept on a bed of dry leaves and felt secure. In the morning I started out to walk to Washington. On the way I went to a farmers' house and secured some bread, which I ate. Then I went to the top of a mountain and remained there several days. At the end of that time I felt considerably relieved. Afterward I reached a small railroad station and purchased another ticket into Washington. In New York I remained a week and took the steamer for Bremen, where I arrived in due time. I formed the acquaintance of a man on shipboard and he, being a Jew, was suspicious of him. At Minden he asked me to accompany him to Offenbach, on the Main, but I declined and managed to get away from him, for I was suspicious of the fellow. I went from place to place, always being afraid of the fact that was ahead of me.

"In the morning I again heard the mysterious voice. 'You do all things. You may do what you choose, nothing will happen to you.' I said, 'I went out on the

ST. LOUIS STRIKING POWER.

ABOUT SCHMIDT'S CHURCH.

Worship will be free and absolutely without price, and those who desire to be directed in the way of eternal life may do so without being taxed for the information.

There will be no long, tedious sermons, with its fourthly and fifthly, although the spiritual director will read passages from the Scriptures and explain them.

Women in silks and fine garments will not stir up of praise, while their thoughts are on the things of earth.

It will be a house of prayer, where the penitent may kneel and commune with the Lord and learn his holy will.

While the minister is explaining the meaning of the passages of Scripture the chimes in the belfry will play low, sweet and solemn music lasting the occasion.

During the prayers the pipe organ, also located in the belfry, will play airs that are calculated to turn the thoughts of the sinners to higher things.

Out of his own funds Mr. Schmidt will build the church and also support it.

Street and all sorts of temptations were placed in my way. I saw a collection box for the poor, into which I had the day before dropped a coin. I was seized with an impulse to pick it up. I felt an almost irresistible impulse to throw myself in front of a passing wagon. I had stopped at a tavern for some beer and had given the woman a tip. Journeying on I was later checked by a rainstorm and when I was about to pass by the tavern I received a warning not to do so. Then I felt a shock as if from a stroke of lightning.

"Soon recovering, I went on, although I was still afraid. I felt of my pistol upon which I had hitherto relied for protection in the event I was attacked. But by this time I had made up my mind fully that I was possessed of a devil and had decided that I would put my trust in the Lord.

do I drew the pistol from my pocket and threw it away, feeling that the Lord would be my friend and would shield me from evil.

PURSUED BY A VOICE.

"When I reached the hotel I was weary, and I retired at once. I slept soundly. In the morning I awakened, and I heard a voice say in a low tone: 'If somebody would tell you to jump out of the window—'

I started myself and resolved not to do such a thing as this. Then a friendly voice whispered: 'You may jump; nothing will happen to you. Stand up and go.' So I stood at the window, and a short prayer and then leaped from the window.

"I was badly hurt on the hard cement pavement, but I staggered to my feet and started away. Finally I was overcome by weakness and sank to the ground. Two men picked me up and carried me to the police station. They sent me to a hospital, and for a long time I was there, bound to a cot and raving in delirium. For more than a month I remained under the care of the doctors, and then one day I was allowed to attend Michael's Church in company with my wife, who had come over from this country to see me and minister to my wants. I prayed for the restoration of my reason, and my prayer was answered. Then I returned to my home in America, and have been here ever since.

There is no literal hell. When we sin we are but instruments in the hands of the devil, and he shall be punished in the end for what he forced us to do. My theme on this subject are peculiar, probably, in your opinion. I do not think there is a burning lake, where sinners are burned

throughout all eternity. We have our punishment on earth. It is in our hearts, and evil days come upon us when we do wrong. We may be prosperous after we have done a wicked thing, but there will be a punishment inflicted upon us to compensate for the other.

"This is the theory I am going to teach in my church. I am going to teach the people who attend that God is the truth, and that he is always willing to aid a repentant sinner, and that anything, however wonderful, may be accomplished if it is tried in his name."

Doctor Schmidt is about 45 years old and was born at Kitzingen-Oberhausen, Germany.

At once he began to practice at No. 225 South Jefferson avenue, where he had his residence and his office. He has always been very popular with the people, and there has never been a time that he has not had all the patients he could attend to. Upon his return from Germany during the time he alleges he was possessed of a devil he purchased the property at No. 2820 South Jefferson avenue and built a hospital, which he used for a year or two. Then he closed it and devoted his entire time to his private practice.

BELLOWS CHIMES AND ORGAN.

But through it all he did not forget that he had pledged himself to establish a church, and he began to make plans for it. He had always intended that there should be a set of chimes on the edifice and he studied music in order to enable him to conduct them. At odd times when he was not studying or attending patients, he worked on the chimes, and now a miniature set has been completed

MODEL FOR CHIMES AND ORGAN TO BE OPERATED BY ELECTRICITY

WHAT DR. AUGUST SCHMIDT THINKS ABOUT RELIGION.

There is no hell and no lake of fire in which sinners will dwell through all eternity.

The devil is responsible for all disease, accidents, troubles and worries of every kind.

The Lord wants you to live and to do right before the Lord, and there will be no sorrow nor death.

Obey the laws of your land, be honest and upright in all your dealings with men, and the Lord will bless you and make you prosperous.

Keep your heart clean, and the devil will not be able to find an entrance there.

The devil is with you always, and he is continually attacking your weak points, but the Lord is also keeping a careful watch over you, and you have but to trust him and you cannot wander from the straight and narrow path.

The churches of the present time do not devote enough of their time to fighting the devil.

There are eighteen bells connected by electric wires and set in a cabinet about six feet square.

Whatever the outside world may think of the plans of Doctor Schmidt, the people of the South Side believe he is sincere in all he says and they hold him in the highest esteem. He is the friend of the poor and needy, and is always doing good in a substantial way for his neighbors who are in distress. Where his patients are poor he renders his services free of charge, and is as attentive as if they had paid him. He has a wife and six children, and his home at 2820 and 2824 is one of the most beautiful in the neighborhood.